5.8.3.4   Sustain the State Strategic Technology Reserve (STR)

NECP Alignment:

NECP Objective	NECP Initiative	NECP Milestone
7	7.2	5

Gap Statement: Key state officials need a reliable redundant communications system among and between themselves and the agencies relying on them for decisions in times of emergency. Arizona officials consider the COG as the prime directive for the STR, with augmentation of the current reserves that are deployed throughout Arizona. In addition, implementation of the STR is a mandatory requirement for the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) PSIC Grant and incorporating the STR into emergency communications plans (ECPs) is a milestone in the NECP.

Initiative Description: This initiative is designed to sustain telecommunications capabilities during emergencies that may involve communication outages affecting existing commercial and non-commercial telecommunication services. This initiative equips MCUs with interoperable communications equipment (e.g., subscriber radios, base stations, gateways, satellite phones, etc.) and information technology equipment (e.g., laptop computers, etc.) that can be deployed to provide or supplement communications capabilities and governmental operations to an incident area. Furthermore, this initiative equips caches in support of COG efforts as needed.

Priority: Medium

Term/Timeframe: Medium-term (2015)

Lead/Owner: ADEM

> **Primary Participants:**
> o State Officials
> o Capitol Police
> o County Emergency Managers

Action Plan:

1) Identify gaps in COG communications
2) Identify possible solutions
3) Develop STR plan
4) Develop the RFP
5) Receive bidder proposals
6) Evaluate proposals against RFP criteria (e.g., price, experience, recurring expenses, timelines, etc.) and award the winning contract(s)
7) Complete and issue the required purchasing orders
8) Configure, program, and deploy received equipment
9) Document deployed equipment in Emergency Communications Plans (ECPs).
10) Complete training on use and maintenance of equipment

Objectives:

1) Pre-position and secure mobile interoperable communications assets for immediate deployment to impacted areas statewide in an emergency or major disaster

2) Provide redundant communications assets which can reconstitute basic public safety/service communications in the event of a catastrophic communication failure

3) Augment COG capabilities by providing a reserve of communications assets to government officials

4) Define alternate/backup capabilities in ECPs (NECP milestone)

Performance Measures:

1) Establishment of multiple communications pathways between key governmental officials and key emergency management officials

2) Deployment of all equipment purchased and dedicated to the STR

3) Demonstrate the ability to mobilize and activate STR equipment to impacted sites within a reasonable time frame

4) Incorporate STR and other redundant communication asset information into ECPs

Critical Success Factors/Risks:

1) Availability of resources (e.g., funding, staffing, equipment, etc.)

2) Identification of long-term maintenance and sustainability resources

3) Marketing the availability and applicability of STR resources

4) Delays in radio equipment procurement and/or delivery

Funding:

- Federal
  - o PSIC
- State
  - o ADEM
- Local – STR recipient agencies are responsible for funding training, maintenance and operations of STR equipment

Outreach Plan: Actively engage emergency planning and communications groups statewide through briefings on the capabilities and limitations of the STR, including access and deployment procedures. Ensure that STR equipment and request procedures are consistently documented in all statewide emergency response plans, COG plans, and TICPs.